

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has required an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner has identified the following groups of claims:

Group I - Claims 1-8 and 10-20, drawn to a heated pipe, classified in class 392, subclass 311; and

Group II – Claim 9, drawn to a method of pipe heating, classified in class 392, subclass 312.

The Examiner maintains the inventions are distinct because Groups I and II are related as product and process of use.

The Applicants hereby elects the claims of Group I, claims 1-8 and 10-20, subject to the right to request rejoinder in the event that product claims (Group I) are found to be allowable and the process claim (Group II) depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable product claim.

The outstanding Office action was electronically transmitted on 6 October 2008. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 months from the notification date. Therefore, no extension of time or accompanying fee is believed to be due in making this response. Nevertheless, the Applicants hereby make a conditional petition for an extension of time for response in the event that such a petition is required. No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of his response is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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